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THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (a) Yes, Sir. The Government received such a petition signed by a large number of people.

" The Government did not, however, consider it proper to comply with the request contained in the petition, as the offences involved a bad type of murder and the period of imprisonment suffered so far is relatively brief.

" (b) The latest medical report about the convicts shows that their general health is quite satisfactory."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that these two prisoners were convicted in 1949–50 when they were not given facilities to defend themselves and that the accused in the same case tried after 1951 were acquitted because they had facilities to argue their case? In view of these facts, will the Government be pleased to consider the question favourably? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The question of acquittal depends upon the evidence available in respect of each of the accused. As far as the persons now convicted are concerned, there was sufficient evidence and they were convicted on the basis of the evidence available. As regards the first part of the question, I am not prepared to accept it."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" அந்தப் பிரதேசத்தில் வசிக்கும் மக்கள் 12 ஆயிரம் பேர்கள் குற்றங்களின் தன்மையை புரிந்திருந்தும்கூட அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்யவேண்டும் என்று கூறியும் அரசாங்கம் இவர்களுடைய அபிலாஷையை கணக்கில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதை கவனிக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We cannot dispose of questions of criminal justice by mass petitions. Mass petitions to-day can easily be got signed."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் இறுதி யோசனை செய்யும் வரைக்கும் கைதிகளுக்கு வசதி செய்துகொடுப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசனை செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We cannot coddle prisoners convicted of criminal offences by courts."

Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

9-20 a.m. * 388-I Q.—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum of objections from the Madras State Bar Federation to the report on the working of the Scheme of Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive; and

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (a) & (b) Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given on the floor of the House to the starred

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question No. 1153 by the hon. Member Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar answered on 25th July 1953. The matter is under the consideration of Government.''

Sri V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—'' Is it a fact that the members of the Bar Federation waited in deputation on the Hon. Minister and raised various objections and if so, may I know what action has been taken by Government on those objections? ''

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' They sent a representation and they also saw me. They made reference to very many items. I can mention one or two major items referred to by them. One of them was in respect of recruitment of District Magistrates, the other was against some remarks made by the Committee with regard to the functions of District Magistrates and another was in respect of recruitment to all cadres. Such administrative matters have been raised by them and the Government are considering those representations.''

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—'' When did the Government receive the Committee's report, I mean Justice Rajagopalan Committee's report? ''

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' I am not able to say the month or date. We got it in 1953.''

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—'' May I know what percentage of appointments under this scheme the Federation wants for its members? ''

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' That does not arise. They only want that direct recruitment from among the lawyers must be resorted to.''

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' The Hon. Minister for Law was pleased to say that the Federation sent a representation and he also saw them. I presume they met him also. May I know whether they raised any objection to the Indian Administrative Service personnel being appointed to the Judiciary? ''

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' Regarding the first part of the question, they have to see me when they meet me. I do not think there is any difference as to that. Regarding the consideration of their recommendations and suggestions, the Government have to examine them in connexion with all the items covered by the report of the Committee.''

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Is it not a fact that the Bar Federation was allowed opportunities to tender its views before the Committee which went into the question? ''

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—'' If a separate question is put, I will be able to answer.''

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SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" May I know whether the attention of the Government was drawn particularly to the recruitment of District Munsifs? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" All aspects of recruitment were brought to my notice and adverted to in detail."

Supply of bad quality rice in Palghat taluk.

* 388-J *Q.*—SRI R. KRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any complaints from the consumers and producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies of Palghat taluk about the bad quality of rice supplied for distribution through ration shops; and

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action the Government have taken on those complaints?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative. A representation was, however, received from 'the Palghat Chamber of Commerce' complaining about the bad quality of rice supplied in the ration shops in Palghat and it was enquired into. The enquiry revealed that the rice under reference was received from Tadepalligudem and that it was *red* in appearance as it was not polished. It was neither weevilled nor in any way infested. It was also found that the rice when cooked did not give any bad smell as in the case of bad rice. As it was in good condition and as it did not contain any dirt particles or dust, the District Supply Officer, Kozhikode, did not withdraw the rice from the ration shops. The Government agreed with the District Supply Officer's report which was endorsed by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and dropped the matter."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" ഈ അരി പാകം ചെയ്യാൽ കഴമ്പുപോലെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അതു ആരും വാങ്ങാതെ ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ കൂടിക്കിടക്കുകയാണു്. അതു തിരിയെ എടുക്കാൻ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിനു് ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ ? അരിയുടെ സാമ്പിൾ എന്റെ കൈവശമുണ്ടു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിക്കു് പരിശോധിക്കാം."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" These samples are very easily obtained. I do not know wherefrom they are obtained. I understand the same sample is shown everywhere. Apart from that, the main objection was about the colour of the rice. I do agree that red has to be avoided either in politics or in rice quality. (Laughter.) I have been of late receiving complaints that there is a certain amount of small quantity of bad rice going about everywhere. That is being taken advantage of for making complaints everywhere that the rice supplied is very bad. I am looking into this matter and I have already issued specific instructions that the matter should be looked into immediately and when-